



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES DECADES IN PRISON FOR TWO INDIANAPOLIS METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKERS

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Sergio Delarosa, 30, of Indianapolis, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney to a total of 147 months (12 years, 3 months) in prison following his guilty plea on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, as well as the possession of a firearm in furtherance of that drug trafficking. A second defendant, Pedro Esparza-Serrano, 22, of Indianapolis, also pled guilty to identical charges, and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 181 months (15 years, 1 month).

“Meth is a scourge on our community, destroying families and promoting violence,” Hogsett said. “These two men have learned the hard way just how seriously our office takes allegations of meth trafficking on the streets of Indianapolis.”

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Brady, who prosecuted the case for the government, the defendants were arrested on October 14, 2010, after the two were located in a vehicle containing a loaded .40 caliber Glock firearm, and approximately 390 grams of methamphetamine. A search of both defendants’ residences occurred following their arrests, where more firearms and methamphetamine were located and seized.

These guilty pleas follow an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney’s Violent Crime Initiative. Announced by Hogsett in March of 2011, the Initiative represents a comprehensive district-wide strategy to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities through improved local collaboration and aggressive federal prosecution.

In the first nine months of operation, the VCI produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges – from 14 felony possession of a firearm charges in 2010 to 103 in 2011. Major drug trafficking indictments are up more than 100% from where they were two years ago. And drug trafficking seizures increased by more than seven-fold over 2010 numbers.

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